2/4530

Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430

T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

www.cn.ca August 10, 2005

Mr. Vernon A. Williams Secretary Surface Transportation Board 1925 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



Re: Environmental Report, Historic Report and Required Certifications for Docket No. AB-43 (Sub-No. 176X), Illinois Central Railroad Company.— Notice of Exemption for Abandonment in Rankin County, Mississippi

Dear Secretary Williams:

Illinois Central Railroad Company intends on filing a Notice of Exemption for the above-the above-referenced Abandonment Exemption are the following, which are required by 49 C.F.R. Part 1105:

- 1. An original and ten copies of the Environmental/Historic Report
- 2. An original and ten copies of the transmittal letter that accompanied the reports,
- 3. An original and ten copies of a certificate demonstrating compliance with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 1105.

Please stamp and return the duplicate copy of this letter to my attention to indicate that you received the items listed. As shown in the Environmental Report, we conclude that the proposed abandonment is outside a coastal area, so Illinois Central Railroad Company concludes the proposed abandonment does not need a Coastal Zone Management Plan Consistency Review.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Mereled I had Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

AUG 1 5 2005

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

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Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430 T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

August 10, 2005

997999.Cia. Cia.

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Notice of Exemption for Abandonment—Forrest County, Mississippi—Docket AB-43 (Sub-No. 176X)

To Whom It May Concern:

Any time on or after August 30, 2005, Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon a railroad line located between milepost 70.20 and milepost 71.72, a distance of 1.52 miles, in Flowood, Rankin County, Mississippi. Enclosed is an Environmental Report and a Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historical effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental and historical analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the STB's environmental and historic review process, please contact their Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), at the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20423-0001, (202) 565-1545, and refer to the above docket number.

IC will file the Environmental Report and Historic Report with the STB on or about August 10, 2005. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to the STB (with a copy to the undersigned) would be appreciated within three weeks. Your comments will be considered by the STB in evaluating the environmental and historical impact of the contemplated action.

If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact the undersigned directly at (708) 332-3954 or by mail at the above address.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Illinois Central

Railroad Company

BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DOCKET NO. AB-43 (SUB-NO. 176X)

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY

— ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION —
IN RANKIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") submits this Environmental/ Historic Report in compliance with the reporting requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.7 and 1105.8. Supporting correspondence is attached. It is the conclusion of this report that the proposed abandonment, if implemented, will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT – 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)

1. <u>Proposed Action and Alternatives</u>. IC seeks to abandon its line of railroad, referred to herein as the "Flowood Line" between milepost 70.20 at its eastern end and milepost 71.72 at its western end, a distance of 1.52 miles, in Flowood, Rankin County, Mississippi.

The Flowood Line travels through an urbanized commercial area of Flowood, a suburb of Jackson. There are some light industries surrounding the line, but none take rail service.

Following abandonment, two at-grade crossings can be removed.

There are no buildings or structures located within the abandonment area.

There are no customers on the line and no revenue cars have originated or terminated on the line for at least two years. There is no overhead traffic on the Flowood Line.

There is a north-south line known as the East Jackson Spur that connects just inside the abandonment limit at milepost 70.20. Trains traveling along the East Jackson Spur use the connection to serve a customer located on the line immediately east of the abandonment limit. IC shall relocate the connection so that the East Jackson Spur will connect to track outside, or east, of the abandonment limit of milepost 70.20. Therefore, trains will continue to use the East Jackson Spur and will continue to serve the customers located on the line just east of the abandonment limit.

No alternatives to the proposed abandonment have been considered other than a possible conversion to trail use or levee use.

After abandonment, IC intends to salvage rail and track material from the line, leaving the ties and ballast in place.

A map showing the location of the Flowood Line is attached hereto as Appendix A.

2. <u>Transportation System</u>. IC does not anticipate that existing regional or local transportation systems or patterns will be adversely affected by the proposed abandonment as the line is currently not in use. Comments have been requested from the Mississippi Department of Transportation; they have not yet responded. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix B.

The width of the right-of-way varies. Between milepost 70.20 and milepost 71.00, a good portion of the right-of-way is 100' in width. West of milepost 71.00 to milepost 71.72, IC has rights to operate these tracks on the property of a non-railroad third party.

Abandonment of the Flowood Line will allow permanent closure of one highway grade crossing as follows:

Milepost	<u>Name</u>	DOT No.	Warning Devices
70.24	Flowood Drive	300-384P	Flashers

Relocation of the connection for the East Jackson Spur will also eliminate a crossing.

Milepost	Name	DOT No.	Warning Devices
N/A	Flowood Drive	300-383H	Crossbucks

3. <u>Land Use</u>.

(i) IC does not foresee any inconsistency with regional and/or local land use plans. IC has contacted the City of Flowood and Rankin County but they have not responded. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix C and D.

The local levee district has indicated that they may wish to acquire the line for levee purposes.

- (ii) The Natural Resources Conservation Service has indicated that the proposed abandonment will not have any adverse impact on prime farmland. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix E.
- (iii) The Flowood Line does not lie within a designated Coastal Zone

 Management Area and, accordingly, the proposed abandonment will not affect any land or water

 uses in such an area or result in any coastal impacts. IC has contacted the Mississippi Coastal

 Program, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, but has not as yet received a response.

 See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix F.
- (iv) Besides the possibility of use as a levee, the line also would be suitable for a trail. It would not be suitable for highway purposes as this is a dense urban area with a developed highway system.

4. Energy.

- (i) The proposed abandonment will not have any effect on the transportation of energy resources. No energy resource commodities move over the line, and IC foresees little or no possibility that such on-line traffic would develop in the future.
- (ii) The movement and/or recovery of recyclable commodities will not be adversely affected by this abandonment. No such traffic has been handled on the line for years (if ever), and IC foresees little or no possibility that any on-line recyclable commodity traffic would develop in the future.
- (iii) Abandonment will not result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency. There is no current traffic originating or terminating on the line nor overhead traffic on the line and thus there will be no changes in existing transportation patterns or energy usage as a result of the proposed abandonment.
- (iv) Not applicable. Abandonment of the line will not cause the diversion of more than 1,000 rail carloads per year or an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year to motor carriers.

5. Air.

- (i) Not applicable. Abandonment will not result in (A) a minimum increase in rail traffic of 100% or eight trains per day on any segment of rail line, (B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 100%, or (C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles per day on any road segment.
- (ii) Abandonment of the Flowood Line will not result in traffic increases which exceed the thresholds specified in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(5)(ii)(A), (B) or (C).

- (iii) Not applicable. This is an abandonment of a line on which there has been no customers for at least two years and there is no overhead traffic on the line.
- 6. <u>Noise.</u> Not applicable. As indicated above, none of the thresholds identified in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(5)(i) will be exceeded as a result of the abandonment.

7. Safety.

- (i) The proposed action will have positive effects on public health and safety.

 Abandonment of the line will allow elimination of two grade crossings. During any salvage operations on the Flowood Line, precautions will be taken to ensure public safety.
- (ii) Not applicable. This is an abandonment of a line on which no traffic has originated or terminated for at least two years and there is no overhead traffic. Accordingly, the proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of hazardous materials.
- (iii) There are no known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous material spills on the right-of-way of the Flowood Line. There are no known environmental issues relating to this site.

8. <u>Biological Resources.</u>

(i) In response to IC's request for comments, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service states that no impacts are anticipated on federal listed species as a result of the abandonment. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix G.

IC also contacted the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and the Mississippi Natural Heritage Program, but has not received a response. See correspondence attached herein as Appendix H and I.

(ii) The Flowood Line does not pass through or is not adjacent to any wildlife sanctuaries or refuges or any national or state parks or forests and, accordingly, none will be adversely affected.

9. Water.

- (i) IC has contacted the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality ("MDEQ") to determine whether the proposed abandonment is consistent with applicable federal, state and local water quality standards. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix J. While MDEQ has not responded, IC will be mindful of proper erosion control in the removal of rail and other salvageable materials to minimize impact. IC intends on leaving bridges and culverts in place.
- (ii) IC has contacted the Army Corps of Engineers to determine if the proposed abandonment requires permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Corps was interested on how IC intends on salvaging the line and whether the one culvert that impacts a jurisdictional water of the United States will be removed. IC reported that it will remove the rail and other track material, leaving the ties and ballast in place. Also, IC responded that if the local levee district acquires the line for levee purposes, the culvert would remain in place. IC does believe that no Section 404 permit will be required. The Corps followed up with a letter indicating that no Section 404 permit nor a permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 should be required. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix K.

IC also believes that removal of rails will not affect any existing wetlands. In addition, abandonment should not impact any 100-year floodplain if no additional fill is placed in any floodplain.

(iii) Based on IC's plans for disposal and recycling of track material, IC concludes that no permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act are required. No material will be disposed of into waterways as part of the abandonment. IC contacted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding the proposed abandonment but has not received a response. See correspondence attached herein as Appendix L.

10. <u>Proposed Mitigation.</u>

Since IC anticipates no adverse environmental impact from this proposed transaction, no mitigation actions are proposed.

<u>HISTORIC REPORT — 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(d)</u>

- 1. Map. A map of the Flowood Line is attached hereto as Appendix A.
- 2. <u>Description of Line</u>. The Flowood Line runs between milepost 70.20 and 71.72 in an east-west direction, a distance of 1.52 miles, in Flowood, Rankin County, Mississippi. The Flowood Line is a part of the old Pearl River GA Line of the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio that traveled from Jackson to Meridian. The Flowood Line is virtually all that is left of it. Indeed, IC must operate over trackage rights on Kansas City Southern Railway Company to access the Flowood Line. There have been no revenue cars originating or terminating on the Flowood Line for at least two years.

The Flowood Line travels through an urbanized commercial area of Flowood, a suburb of Jackson. Some light industries surround the line, but none take rail service.

3. Photographs.

There are no structures on the Flowood Line so no photographs are enclosed.

4. Information on Structures.

There are no structures on the Flowood Line.

5. <u>History of Operations.</u>

In the early twentieth century, the New Orleans Great Northern started to construct the line from Jackson to Meridian. Prior to completion, it sold the rights to this line to the Gulf, Mobile & Northern, which completed the line around 1925. Gulf, Mobile & Northern merged with Mobile & Ohio to become the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio, which then merged into the IC pursuant to a 1971 ICC authorization.

6. Engineering Documents.

To the best of IC's knowledge, it does not have any relevant engineering documents for the Flowood Line.

- The Historic Criteria. Based on readily available information in its possession, IC believes that no site or structure listed in or meeting the criteria for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places* is located on the Flowood Line or will be affected by the abandonment. IC also believes that no culturally significant locations, archeological sites, or unique land forms will be affected by the abandonment. IC has contacted the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and requested a historical review. The Department responded by saying that no properties listed on or eligible for the National Register would be affected, and they have no reservations about the proposed abandonment. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix M.
- 8. <u>Ground Disturbance</u>. IC is unaware of environmental conditions that might affect the archaeological recovery of resources. Access to the line is good.

Dated:	8-10-0	<i>ي</i>
Dateu.	0 •	

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

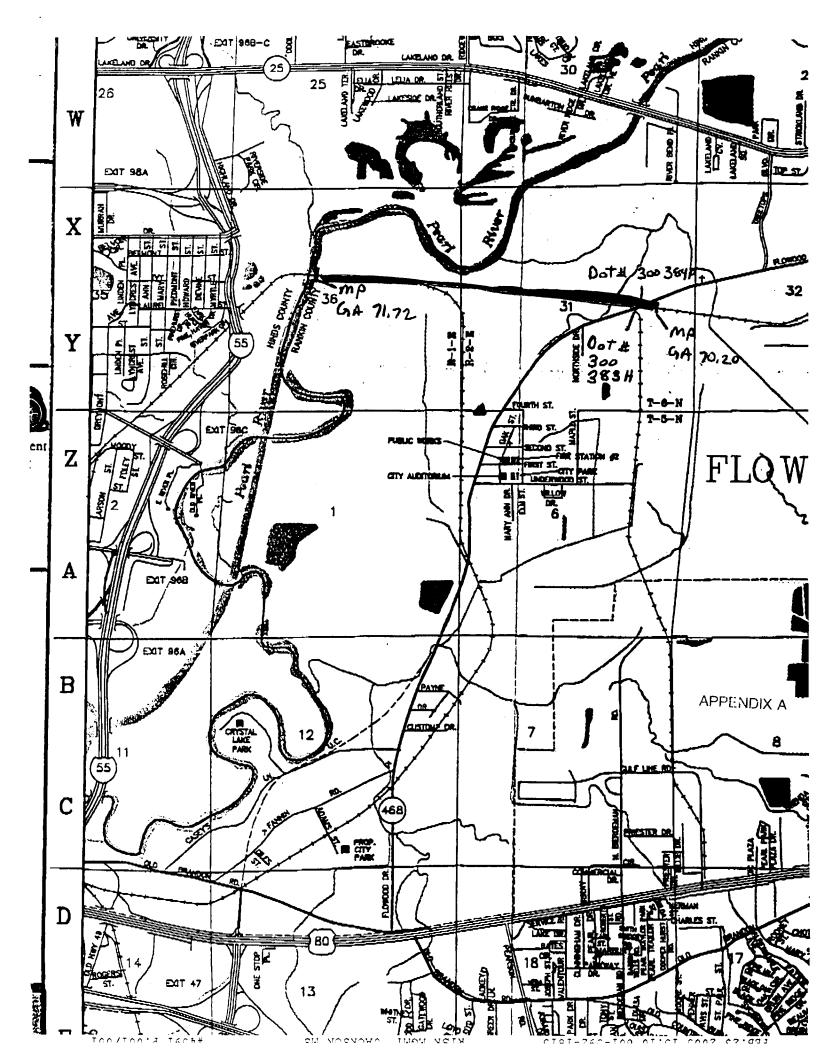
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Canadian National/Illinois Central

17641 S. Ashland Avenue

Homewood, IL 60430

(708) 332-3954



Michael J. Barron Counsel

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April 7, 2005

Mr. Marlin D. Collier
Director, Office of Intermodal Planning
Mississippi Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39115-1850

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Rankin County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Collier:

Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("ICR") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 1.52 mile line of railroad starting at MP 70.20 and ending at MP 71.72 in Flowood, Rankin County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. ICR is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

- Water quality;
- Designated wetlands:
- 100-year-old flood plains;
- Endangered or threatened species;
- 5. Critical habitats;
- 6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
- National or state parks or forests;
- 8. Coastal zone management;
- 9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
- 10. Agricultural land;
- 11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
- 12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Muld Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430 T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

www.cn.ca

April 7, 2005

Mayor Gary Rhoads City of Flowood P.O. Box 6277 Flowood, MS 39288

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Rankin County, Mississippi

Dear May Rhoads:

Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("ICR") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 1.52 mile line of railroad starting at MP 70.20 and ending at MP 71.72 in Flowood, Rankin County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. ICR is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

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- Endangered or threatened species;
- 5. Critical habitats;
- 6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
- National or state parks or forests;
- 8. Coastal zone management;
- 9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
- 10. Agricultural land;
- 11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
- 12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company



Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430

T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

www.cn.ca

April 7, 2005

Rankin County Board of Supervisors 221 Government Street Suite A Brandon, MS 39042

Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Rankin County, Mississippi Re:

Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("ICR") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 1.52 mile line of railroad starting at MP 70.20 and ending at MP 71.72 in Flowood, Rankin County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. ICR is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

- 1. Water quality;
- 2. Designated wetlands:

To Whom It May Concern:

- 3. 100-year-old flood plains:
- Endangered or threatened species; 4.
- 5. Critical habitats:
- 6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
- 7. National or state parks or forests:
- Coastal zone management; 8.
- 9. Soil and natural resource conservation:
- 10. Agricultural land:
- 11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
- The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act. 12.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours.

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company





Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430 T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

www.cn.ca

April 7, 2005

Mr. Homer L. Wilkes State Conservationist USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service 100 West Capitol Street, Room 1321 Jackson, MS 39269

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Rankin County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Wilkes:

Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("ICR") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 1.52 mile line of railroad starting at MP 70.20 and ending at MP 71.72 in Flowood, Rankin County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. ICR is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

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- 100-year-old flood plains;
- Endangered or threatened species;
- Critical habitats;
- 6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
- National or state parks or forests;
- 8. Coastal zone management;
- 9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
- Agricultural land;
- 11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
- 12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Mula J. Barroy, Jr.

Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service Suite 1321, Federal Building 100 West Capitol Street Jackson, MS 39269

April 14, 2005

Michael J. Barron Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company U.S. Legal Affairs 17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, IL 60430

Dear Mr. Barron:

This is in response to your letter dated April 7, 2005, regarding the Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Rankin County, MS.

This proposed abandonment has no adverse effect on agricultural land or Prime Farmland.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Lilly State Soil Scientist

Makal & Killy



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Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430

T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

April 7, 2005

Mr. Jerry Brashier Director of Wetland Permitting Mississippi Coastal Program Mississippi Dept of Marine Resources 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101 Biloxi, MS 39530

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Rankin County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Brashier:

Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("ICR") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 1.52 mile line of railroad starting at MP 70.20 and ending at MP 71.72 in Flowood, Rankin County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. ICR is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

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- Designated wetlands;
- 3. 100-year-old flood plains;
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- National or state parks or forests;
- 8. Coastal zone management;
- Soil and natural resource conservation;
- Agricultural land;
- 11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
- 12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company





Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430 T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

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April 7, 2005

Ms. Kathy W. L Lunceford Environmental Coordinator U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 6578 Dogwood view Parkway, Suite A. Jackson, MS 39213

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Rankin County, Mississippi

Dear Ms. Lunceford:

Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("ICR") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 1.52 mile line of railroad starting at MP 70.20 and ending at MP 71.72 in Flowood, Rankin County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. ICR is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

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- Coastal zone management;
- Soil and natural resource conservation;
- 10. Agricultural land;
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- The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Barron, 🕼r.

Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mississippi Field Office 6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A Jackson, Mississippi 39213

April 15, 2005

Mr. Michael Barron 17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430

Dear Mr. Barron:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the information in your letter dated April 7, 2005, regarding the Illinois Central Railroad company proposed abandonment in Rankin County, Mississippi. Our comments are submitted in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based on the proposed action, the Service anticipates no impacts to any federal listed species to occur as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, the Service has no objections or special concerns regarding the current proposal.

If you have any questions, please contact David Felder in our office, telephone: (601) 321-1139.

Sincerely

Curlis B. James

Assistant Field Supervisor



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U.S. Legal Affairs

Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430 T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

April 7, 2005

Mr. Christopher A. Alonzo Director, Environmental Programs Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks 1505 Eastover Drive Jackson, MS 39211-6322

Re:

Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Rankin County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Alonzo:

Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("ICR") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 1.52 mile line of railroad starting at MP 70.20 and ending at MP 71.72 in Flowood, Rankin County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. ICR is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

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Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company



Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430 T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

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April 7, 2005

Ms. Cynthia Rickis-Gordon Environmental Biologist Mississippi Natural Heritage Program Mississippi Museum of Natural Science 2148 Riverside Drive Jackson, MS 39202-1353

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Rankin County, Mississippi

Dear Ms. Rickis-Gordon:

Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("ICR") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 1.52 mile line of railroad starting at MP 70.20 and ending at MP 71.72 in Flowood, Rankin County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. ICR is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

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Very truly yours,
Alasta Mand

Michael J. Barron. Jr.

Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430 T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

www.cn.ca

1,13

April 7, 2005

Mr. James I. Palmer, Jr. Executive Director Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality P.O. Box 20305 Jackson, MS 39289-1305

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Rankin County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Palmer:

Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("ICR") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 1.52 mile line of railroad starting at MP 70.20 and ending at MP 71.72 in Flowood, Rankin County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. ICR is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

- Water quality;
- Designated wetlands;
- 100-year-old flood plains;
- Endangered or threatened species;
- Critical habitats;
- Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
- 7. National or state parks or forests;
- 8. Coastal zone management;
- 9. Soil and natural resource conservation:
- Agricultural land;
- 11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
- The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Encl.

APPENDIX J





Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430

T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

www.cn.ca

April 7, 2005

Ms. Elizabeth S. Guynes Chief, Regulatory Branch U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Vicksburg District, Operations Division 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39280-3435

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Rankin County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Guynes:

Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("ICR") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 1.52 mile line of railroad starting at MP 70.20 and ending at MP 71.72 in Flowood, Rankin County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. ICR is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

- Water quality;
- 2. Designated wetlands;
- 3. 100-year-old flood plains;
- 4. Endangered or threatened species;
- 5. Critical habitats;
- 6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
- National or state parks or forests;
- Coastal zone management;
- Soil and natural resource conservation:
- 10. Agricultural land;
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- 12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Mall John Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Encl.

APPENDIX K

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY



VICKSBURG DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4155 CLAY STREET
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39183-3435

April 13, 2005

Operations Division Regulatory

SUBJECT: Illinois Central Railroad Companay Proposed Abandonment in Rankin County, Mississippi

Mr. Michael Barron, Jr. Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company 17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430

Dear Mr. Barron:

We have received your correspondence, subject as above, on April 11, 2005. We are working diligently to reply to you in a timely manner. For ease of reference, we assigned your correspondence an identification number, MVK-2005-476. Please refer to this number should you write or call us about your request.

If you have any questions about the status of your request, please call this office at 601-631-5165.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth S. Guynes Chief, Regulatory Branch

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY



VICKSBURG DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 4155 CLAY STREET VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39183-3435

ATTENTION OF:

April 29, 2005

Operations Division Regulatory

SUBJECT: Determination of Permit Requirements

Mr. Michael J. Barron Jr. Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad 17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430

Dear Mr. Barron:

I refer to your letter concerning proposed plans for the Illinois Central Railroad Company to abandon 1.52 miles of railroad line in section 31, T6N-R1E, Rankin County, Mississippi. The location of the activity is depicted on the enclosed map (enclosure 1).

Based upon the information provided on April 7, 2005, it appears that a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will not be required for the proposed work. the event that project plans are changed, or if you anticipate any additional construction, please contact this office for a reevaluation of permit requirements and refer to No. MVK-2005-476 when submitting the information.

This preliminary jurisdictional determination was based upon available information that there does not appear to be jurisdictional areas on the property subject to regulation pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. An appeals form has been enclosed for your review (enclosure 2).

This determination of Department of the Army regulatory requirements does not convey any property rights, either in real estate or material or any exclusive privileges, and does not authorize any injury to property or invasion of rights or local laws or regulations, or obviate the requirement to obtain State or local assent required by law for the activity discussed herein.

If we may be of any further assistance in this matter, please contact Ms. Monica N. Humphrey, telephone (601) 631-7928, fax (601) 631-5459 or e-mail address: regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil.

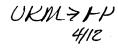
Sincerely,

Michael F. McNair, R.F.

Michael F. McNair, R.F. Team Leader, Permit Section

Regulatory Branch

Enclosure





Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430 T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

www.cn.ca

April 7, 2005

Ms. Elizabeth S. Guynes Chief, Regulatory Branch U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Vicksburg District, Operations Division 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39280-3435

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Rankin County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Guynes:

Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("ICR") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 1.52 mile line of railroad starting at MP 70.20 and ending at MP 71.72 in Flowood, Rankin County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. ICR is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

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- 100-year-old flood plains;
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- Critical habitats;
- 6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
- 7. National or state parks or forests;
- 8. Coastal zone management;
- 9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
- 10. Agricultural land;
- 11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
- 12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

MMW Jh m V Michael J. Barron, Jr.

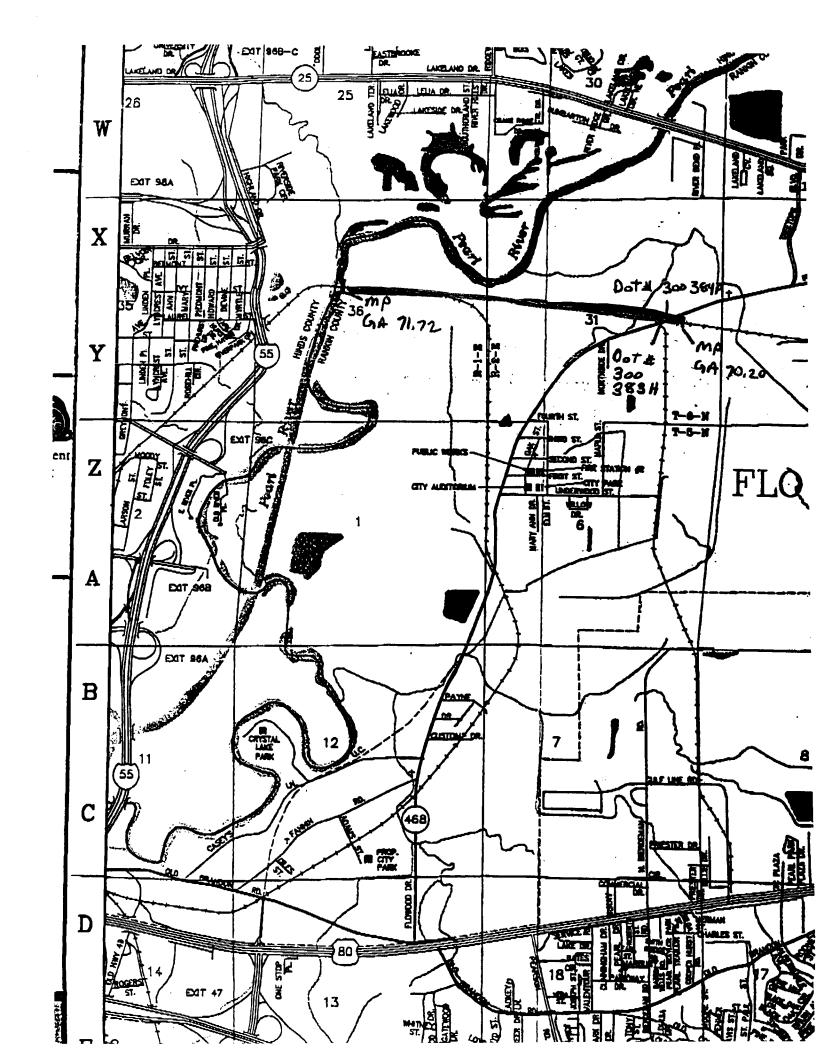
Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL OPTIONS AND PROCESS AND REQUEST FOR APPEAL

App	licant: Illinois Central Railroad	File Number: MVK-2005-476	Date: 04/29/2005
Atta	ched is:	See Section Below	
	INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of Permission)		A
	PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of Permission)		В
	PERMIT DENIAL		C
	APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION		D
X	PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	ON	E

SECTION I - The following identifies your rights and options regarding an administrative appeal of the above decision. Additional information may be found at http://usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg or Corps regulations at 33 CFR Part 331.

- A: INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or object to the permit.
- ACCEPT: If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final
 authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the
 Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit,
 including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations (JD) associated with the permit.
- OBJECT: If you object to the permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may request that the permit be modified accordingly. You must complete Section II of this form and return the form to the district engineer. Your objections must be received by the district engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice, or you will forfeit your right to appeal the permit in the future. Upon receipt of your letter, the district engineer will evaluate your objections and may: (a) modify the permit to address all of your concerns, (b) modify the permit to address some of your objections, or (c) not modify the permit having determined that the permit should be issued as previously written. After evaluating your objections, the district engineer will send you a proffered permit for your reconsideration, as indicated in Section B below.
- B: PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or appeal the permit.
- ACCEPT: If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final
 authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the
 Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit,
 including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.
- APPEAL: If you choose to decline the proffered permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may appeal the declined permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.
- C: PERMIT DENIAL: You may appeal the denial of a permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.
- D: APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You may accept or appeal the approved JD or provide new information.
- ACCEPT: You do not need to notify the Corps to accept an approved JD. Failure to notify the Corps within 60 days of the date of this
 notice, means that you accept the approved JD in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the approved JD.
- APPEAL: If you disagree with the approved JD, you may appeal the approved JD under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal
 Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division
 engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.
- E: PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You do not need to respond to the Corps regarding the preliminary JD. The Preliminary JD is not appealable. If you wish, you may request an approved JD (which may be appealed), by contacting the Corps district for further instruction. Also you may provide new information for further consideration by the Corps to reevaluate the JD.



SECTION II - REQUEST FOR APPEAL or OBJECTIONS TO AN INITIAL PROFFERED PERMT				
REASONS FOR APPEAL OR OBJECTIONS: (Describe your reasons for appealing the decision or your objections to an initial proffered permit in clear concise statements. You may attach additional information to this form to clarify where your reasons or objections are addressed in the administrative record.)				
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The appeal is limited to a review of the adrappeal conference or meeting, and any supplemental information that the review record. Neither the appellant nor the Corps may add new information or anal information to clarify the location of information that is already in the admini	ew officer has determined is yses to the record. However,	needed to clarify the administrative		
POINT OF CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORM	MATION:			
If you have questions regarding this decision and/or the appeal process you may contact:	If you only have questions regarding the appeal process you may also contact:			
Monica Humphrey	Ms. Martha Chieply			
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch	Appeals Review Officer Mississippi Valley Division			
4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435	Post Office Box 80 Vicksburg, MS 39181-0080			
(601) 631-7928	(601) 634-5820			
RIGHT OF ENTRY: Your signature below grants the right of entry to Co to conduct investigations of the project site during the course of the appear investigation, and will have the opportunity to participate in all site investigation.	al process. You will be pro-			
	Date:	Telephone number:		
Signature of appellant or agent.				

Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430 T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

www.cn.ca

April 7, 2005

Mr. John H. Hankinson Regional Administrator, Region IV U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 100 Alabama Street, N.W. Atlanta, GA 30313

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Rankin County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Hanikinson:

Illinois Central Railroad Company. ("ICR") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 1.52 mile line of railroad starting at MP 70.20 and ending at MP 71.72 in Flowood, Rankin County, Mississippi. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. ICR is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

- 1. Water quality;
- Designated wetlands;
- 100-year-old flood plains;
- Endangered or threatened species;
- Critical habitats;
- Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
- 7. National or state parks or forests;
- Coastal zone management;
- 9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
- Agricultural land;
- 11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
- 12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Encl.

APPENDIX L



www.cn.ca

U.S. Legal Affairs

Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430 T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

June 29, 2005

Mr. Thomas H. Waggener Review and Compliance Officer Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History Historic Preservation Division P.O. Box 571 Jackson, MS 39205-0571

Re: Illinois Central Railroad Company Proposed Abandonment in Rankin County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Waggener:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("ICR") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an its rail line in Rankin County between milepost 70.20 and milepost 71.72. IC is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in performing a historical review process. A map of the area slated for abandonment is enclosed.

Thank you for your assistance. Please call me should you have questions.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Enc.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571 601-576-6940 • Fax 601-576-6955 mdah.state.ms.us

July 7, 2005

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr. CN 17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430

Dear Mr. Barron:

RE:

Proposed abandonment of a rail line between milepost 70.20 and milepost

71.72, Rankin County

We have reviewed your June 29, 2005, cultural resources assessment request for the above referenced project proposal in accordance with our responsibilities outlined in 36 CFR 800.4 and 800.5 regarding the identification of historic properties and assessment of any potential adverse effects. It is our determination that no properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected. Therefore, we have no reservations with the proposal.

In addition, we are not aware of any potential of this undertaking to affect Indian cultural or religious sites. However, if you require confirmation of this, the tribal entities will have to be contacted directly.

Should there be additional work in connection with the project, or any changes in the scope of work, please let us know in order that we may provide you with appropriate comments in compliance with the above referenced regulations. There remains a very remote possibility that unrecorded cultural resources may be encountered during construction. Should this occur, we would appreciate your contacting us immediately so that we may take appropriate steps under 36 CFR 800, part 13, regarding our response within forty-eight hours. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

H. T. Holmes

State Historic Preservation Officer

By: Thomas H. Waggenér

Review and Compliance Officer

cc: Clearinghouse for Federal Programs

Docket No. AB-43 (Sub-No. 176X)

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR ABANDONMENT IN RANKIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

To: Mr. Vernon A. Williams Secretary Surface Transportation Board (STB) 1925 K Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20423-0001

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH 49 C.F.R. PART 1105

I hereby certify that on August 10, 2005, copies of the Environmental Report and Historic Report for the above-captioned proceeding were served on the agencies listed at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(b), all agencies consulted in preparing the reports, and on the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. A service list is attached and incorporated into this certificate as Attachment A. The reports have been sent within the time period specified, as Illinois Central Railroad Company intends to file its Notice of Exemption in the above-captioned matter no earlier than August 30, 2005. All appropriate agencies as listed in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e) have been consulted well in advance of preparing the Environmental Report.

I also certify that a newspaper notice was published on April 26, 2005, in the Rankin Ledger, a newspaper of general circulation in Rankin County, Mississippi. The notice alerted the public to the proposed abandonment, to possible reuse alternatives, and to procedures for participating in the STB proceeding. A copy of the notice is attached to this certificate as Attachment B.

Dated this 10 h day of A-g-sr, 2005.

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Illinois Central Railroad Company

Mr. Marlin D. Collier
Director, Office of Intermodal Planning
Mississippi Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39115-1850

Mayor Gary Rhoads City of Flowood P.O. Box 320069 Flowood, MS 39232

Rankin County Board of Supervisors 221 Government Street Suite A Brandon, MS 39042 Mr. Michael E. Lilly State Soil Conservationist USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service 100 West Capitol Street, Room 1321 Jackson, MS 39269

Mr. Jerry Brashier Director of Wetland Permitting Mississippi Coastal Program Mississippi Dept of Marine Resources 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101 Biloxi, MS 39530

Mr. John H. Hankinson Regional Administrator, Region IV U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 100 Alabama Street, N.W. Atlanta, GA 30313

Mr. Christopher A. Alonzo Director, Environmental Programs Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks 1505 Eastover Drive Jackson, MS 39211-6322

Mr. Curtis B. James Assistant Field Supervisor U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 6578 Dogwood view Parkway, Suite A. Jackson, MS 39213

Ms. Cynthia Rickis-Gordon Environmental Biologist Mississippi Natural Heritage Program Mississippi Museum of Natural Science 2148 Riverside Drive Jackson, MS 39202-1353

Mr. James I. Palmer, Jr. Executive Director Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality P.O. Box 20305 Jackson, MS 39289-1305 Ms. Elizabeth S. Guynes
Chief, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Vicksburg District, Operations Division
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39280-3435

Mr. Thomas H. Waggener Review and Compliance Officer Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History Historic Preservation Division P.O. Box 571 Jackson, MS 39205-0571

Ms. Debra D. Archie Project Manager, Permitting Section U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Mobile District, P.O. Box 2288 Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001

Mr. Edward J. McKay Chief, Spatial Reference System Division National Geodetic Survey Nat'l Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 1315 East West Highway, Room 8813 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282 Mr. Michael F. McNair, R.F Team Leader, Permit Section Regulatory Branch U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Vicksburg District, Operations Division 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39280-3435

Mr. William Shaddox Chief, Land Resources Division National Park Service 1849 C Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20240

Ms. Deb Biggers, Director 501 N. West Street, Suite 1301E Mississippi Dept. of Finance and Administration Office of Budget and Fund Management Jackson, MS 39201 PANKIN EDGER: COM

03:03

BRANKINLEDGERRLUS INTESDAY, APRIL 26, 2005



SOUTH JACKSON YAMAHA 5547 1-55 South • Byram, MS 39272 601-371-9050



or after May 27, 2005, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a notice of exemption under 49 CFR U.S. Postal Zip Code 39232. The proceeding will be docketed as AB-43 1152 Subpart F-Exempt Abandonment, permitting the abandonment of a ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY gives notice that on 1.52 line of railroad between milepost 70.20 and milepost 71.72 in Flowood, Rankin County, Mississippi, which line transverses through

make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the SEA, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street NW, Washington, DC available 25 days after the filing of the notice of exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 15 in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will generally (Sup-No. 176X).

RANKIN LEDGER

CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)] and one copy must be severed on applicant's representative. [See 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than er ironmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Commission's Office of Congressional and Public Services at (202) 565-1592. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative. Michael J. inancial assistance) must be filed direction with the Board's Office of the Secretary, 1925 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001[See 49 Barron, Jr., (708) 332-3954 at 17641 S. Ashland Avenue, Homewood, IL Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An 20423 or by calling that office at (202) 565-1545.

Attachment B